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## Senate

The 23d day of January being the day prescribed by H. Con. Res. 295 for the meeting of the second session of the 107th Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, You have divided our lives into years so that with each new year, we can relinquish our past fears. You open Your forgiving heart and give us a fresh start. Our times are in Your hands; shape our destiny as You have planned.

Today, as we begin a new session of this 107th Congress, we commit our lives to You anew. Grant us expectation for what You will enable us to do for Your glory, enthusiasm for the privilege of serving here in the Senate, and excitement over the progress we can make if we trust You. Forgive any ho-hum, somnolent sameness. Awaken us to a fresh realization of Your presence and power. Grant the Senators and all of us who work with them, the conviction that no problem is too big for You to solve, no disagreement too great for You to dissolve, and no crisis too complicated for You to resolve. Lead on, Sovereign Lord, we are one Nation, under You! And You are the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### STARTING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 107TH CONGRESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the start of a new session of Congress is always a hopeful time, and this session is no exception. These are days of great and important challenges for our Nation and for our world, which means we have the opportunity to do great and important work. It is an honor to be part of this Congress and to be able to work with so many fine men and women, Republicans and Democrats. I am going to have more to say this afternoon about the legislative agenda for the year. For now, let me welcome back my colleagues to this second session of Congress. Let me welcome our staffs and all of those who are associated with making this Senate work as it does each and every day.

This is only the second time I have had the privilege of opening a session of Congress. The first time was a year ago during my first 17-day term as majority leader. In my remarks that day, I mentioned the Brumidi corridor, the incredible frescoes that line the walls on the first floor of this building. They were painted more than 125 years ago by an Italian immigrant named Constantino Brumidi. Some people refer to him as "America's Michelangelo"—with good reason. He spent 25 years of his life painting the walls and the great dome of this Capitol. It was a labor of love for his adopted country. Over the years, Brumidi's magnificent paintings were covered over by layers of paint and varnish. For the last several years, art conservators have been painstakingly scraping away those layers to reveal the original works of art underneath.

I have often thought of that process as a good metaphor for the Senate.

Over the years, a layer of partisanship has sometimes settled over the Senate. Even with that disadvantage, it has remained the greatest legislative body in the history of the world and one in which I am very proud to serve. But it is when we are able to transcend the layers of partisanship, as we did last year in response to the attacks on our Nation, that the real beauty and genius of this institution are revealed.

Very often, as I leave work at the end of the day, I walk down the Brumidi corridors on my way out the door. I take a quick look to see the progress the conservators have made. I remember one evening particularly well. It was late October. For much of the time since September 11, and since the anthrax letter was opened in my office, work on the corridors had stopped. But that evening, the conservators were back at work making progress. Their work, it seemed to me, was an act of faith that 125 years from now, and long after that, this building will still be standing; people will still come from all over America and all over the world to see the miracle of democracy in action.

Mo Udall wrote a book called "Too Funny to be President" about his years in the Congress. He dedicated it to the 3,000 Members of Congress, living and dead, with whom he served for nearly three decades. As we begin this new session of Congress, let us remember that we are part of a continuum of all who have come before us and all who will come after us, and let us pledge to work in a way that will honor them all.

With that, I wish my colleagues well. I welcome them back. I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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